such an electorate as would secure at least one Member for the community in each Division. He contended that, if the question of the percentage of the Pulayas to the entire population of the State be considered, they were entitled to a better representation in the Assembly. The community, however, desired only for a reasonable representation.

In conclusion, the Member pointed out the utter helplessness of the Hindu Pulayas. They had no benefactor, no patron, no organisation, no fund. They were Hindus to the core, but they were still outcaste and untouchable. Their only salvation lay in conversion, which effected their social emancipation. That was a contingency which should be avoided in a Hindu State like Travancore. He therefore appealed to the Government to remove the disabilities of the community and emancipate it from social injustice and degradation.

Dewan's reply.—The several suggestions of the Member will be considered.

158. The removal of the obstacles encountered by the Pulayas in securing permanent habitation.

Mr. Ayan Kali (Member, Nominated) said that the Members of his community were mostly dependent on other classes of people. Few had lands of their own, and their dependence on others even for a bare plot of ground to stay was a source of grave apprehension to the community as to their future well-being and security. The Government had recognised their situation and as a result of such recognition sanctioned the assignment of 500 acres of land to the Pulayas in the Vilappil *pakuthi*. That was 4 or 5 years ago. The assignment was not yet complete. The Member requested that orders should be issued for the registry of the lands in question at a very early date.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

159. The need for establishing a Bank, either Government or Private, at Trivandrum.

Mr. T. N. Motha (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) said that the commercial activity of Trivandrum had become so much that the want of a Bank was seriously felt by the people. The importance of the town would increase with the completion of the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway and the Valiathoray Pier. The absence of a Bank having relations with all important centres affected the progress of commerce, especially foreign commerce. He pointed out that the transactions of the local Bankers called Hundi Merchants were not so wide nor was their credit so largely accepted as to be a good substitute for a Metropolitan Bank like the Bank of Madras. The Madras Bank would open a branch in Trivandrum only if the Government encouraged them by offering a guarantee. In the interests of the commerce of the city, the Member requested that either a good Bank should be invited to open a branch or the Government itself should undertake the starting of a Bank in the town.

Mr. P. John Mathew (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) said that the Hundi Merchants, found in almost all parts of the country, gave out money and paddy at an usurious rate of interest and proved very often to be the cause of the ruin of merchants and agriculturists. The necessity of a State Bank was therefore keenly felt. At the commencement of the war, there was a financial crisis at Alleppey, since the Bank took back all the sovereigns and rupees and, as a consequence, copper coins alone were left in the market in plenty. The recurrence of such financial disasters could be prevented only by the establishment of a State Bank. The Member also referred to the enormous loss sustained by Travancore on the collapse of Arbuthnot & Co., and observed that such losses were incidental to the absence of reliable Banks in the State. He also adverted to the Mysore State Bank and requested that the Government should set about the creation of a State Bank by utilising a portion of the immense amount of money lying idle in temples or a

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portion of the money invested in the Government of India Paper. Such a Bank would be both useful to the public and profitable to the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

160. The duty of the Government towards the development of the resources of the country.

Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappilla (Member, Kottayam taluk) said that he intended to speak about the economic development of the country and the kind and degree of assistance which it was the duty of the Government to render for the same. In the words of an authority on the question, "it is economic rivalry and the desire to add to the economic wealth of the country that has established and controlled the world policy during the last century". The duty of Government to help in the economic development of a country was now universally recognised. He referred to the various measures adopted by the Governments in the European countries, in India and in the Native States of Mysore and Baroda for developing their economic, industrial and agricultural resources. At least the force of example should, he said, prompt the Government to turn their attention to the serious problem. But before taking definite action in any particular direction, it was desirable to appoint a commission, composed of officials and non-officials, for making a careful enquiry into the various resources of the country and the ways in which they could be developed. A commission, if appointed, would be able to study the question in all its aspects, gather a mass of evidence and facts and present them in a connected and practical form. The findings of the commission would be of considerable help to the Government in shaping their policy and determining the lines and directions in which action should be profitably taken.

The Member was not oblivious of the fact that the resources of the Government were limited and that the demands on their finances were numerous. He thought that the best course under present circumstances would be first to appoint a commission to make a careful enquiry and find out any new sources of income which could be tapped by the Government. At present it was only the poor land-holding ryots that contributed anything to the State exchequer, while the rest of the people, who also enjoyed equal protection and privileges under the Government and made a lot of money, were completely immune from any taxation. He thought that the inequality could be removed, with profit alike to the State and satisfaction to the tax-paying public.

He next proceeded to touch upon some of the subjects to which he would invite the special attention of the Government :—

(1) Some of the laws and Regulations of the country as also various parts of the administrative machinery, were out of date and stood in the way of progress. As instances, he mentioned the Settlement and the Revenue departments. Owing to the peculiarities of the settlement rules and laws, there was a feeling of apprehension in the minds of the people that, when the next settlement came, they would be hard-hit. The one serious objection to the settlement proceedings was that it made the people who improved their lands pay more tax, while those who sat idle and did nothing to their property were left alone. It was necessary to see whether there was anything in the laws or Regulations which hindered the economic or ordered development of the people. In regard to the Revenue Department, it had often-times appeared to thoughtful people that, in that department, with which the people were most intimately connected, the way in which matters were dealt with from the lowest to the highest led to a lot of confusion, delay and loss. It was strange that the most important department, which was so closely bound up with the everyday life of the people, should continue to be under the direct charge of the Head of the Administration, whose valuable time should be devoted to questions of general policy and not frittered away in the details and routine of revenue administration. It also in a serious way retarded the economic freedom and development of the people. He suggested the desirability of appointing a Revenue Commissioner, with Deputy Peishkars under him, to co-ordinate the work of the Revenue Department and set free much of the Dewan's time for better and more important things.

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